## REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-7, and 9-17 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. By this paper, the Applicant amends claims 18 and 26. No new matter has been added.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, 8 and 18-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the specification of this application does not contain subject matter to implement the limitation, "notifying the at least one other approver of a changed status for the electronic message." The Applicant traverses this rejection. The Applicant believes that the specification supports this limitation.

FIGs. 2A and 3A show the information presented to an approver. (paragraphs [0032], [0050]). The information presented to the approver is updated when an electronic message is approved. (paragraph [0044]). Once the approvers' devices are synchronized, all of the approvers are presented with the same information. (paragraph [0028]). Therefore, when one approver approves an electronic message, the other approver is notified of the approval by the fact that the electronic message is shown as moved from the unapproved folder to the approved folder. For the example given in the specification, the messages 230a and 230b are in the unapproved folder prior to approval in FIG. 2A, and are in the approved folder after approval in FIG. 2B. (paragraph [0044]). Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 18 and 26 should be allowable. Since claims 2, 3, 8 and 19-25 depend from allowable claim 18, and claims 27-30 depend from allowable claim 26, those claims should also be allowable.

At paragraph 6, the Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, 8 and 18-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0116641 A1 (Mastrianni). The Examiner asserts that Mastrianni teaches the two approvers recited in claims 18 and 26 as "semantic engine" and "a parent," such that "approvers" means the functionality for "approve" or "reject," wherein each of the at least two approvers can approve or reject the electronic message, at col. 4, lines 45-53. The Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Applicant disagrees that the "semantic engine" of Mastrianni is an approver as recited in claims 18 and 26. Claims 18 and 26 both recite, "presenting the electronic message on a display to at least one of the approvers for approval or rejection." Because of this requirement, the semantic engine cannot be one of the approvers recited in claims 18 and 26, since the semantic engine of Mastrianni cannot be presented with the electronic message on a display. According to Mastrianni (e.g., paragraph [0020] and figure 3), the semantic engine includes interfaces to a network connection, filter definitions, mail storage, user I/O, and an historical database. The user I/O allows a <u>user</u> to receive e-mail ("E-mail that is to be stored for presentation to a user is stored in mail storage 308 from which a user may retrieve the e-mail through user input/output (I/O) 310."), but Mastrianni does not teach or suggest any way for the semantic engine to receive an electronic message presented on a display. For at least this reason, Mastrianni does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 18 and 26.

In order to expedite prosecution, the Applicant amends claim 18 as follows:

> routing an electronic message intended for a first user to at least two <u>human</u> approvers, wherein each of the at least two <u>human</u> approvers can approve or reject the electronic message <u>prior to the electronic message being routed to the first user</u>

Similarly, the Applicant amends claim 26 as follows:

> directing an outgoing electronic message having an intended recipient sent by a first user to at least two <u>human</u> approvers, wherein each of the at least two <u>human</u> approvers can approve or reject the electronic message <u>prior to the outgoing electronic message being sent to the intended recipient</u>;

Mastrianni clearly does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 18 and 26, since the semantic engine is not a human approver. Further, Mastrianni does not teach sending the message in question to an approver prior to being routed to the user or sent to the intended recipient. For example, Mastrianni teaches at paragraph [0036] that "[t]he e-mail recipient can see that an attachment has arrived but can't gain access to it until the parent or employer "clears" the file for viewing." According to the Mastrianni system, the approval or rejection is not done prior to the message being routed to the user (or sent to the recipient), as required by amended claim 18 (claim 26). So with the Mastrianni system, a user receives an e-mail that "disappears" if the message is subsequently rejected.

Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example at paragraphs [0017] and [0007].
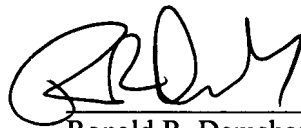
For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 18 and 26 as amended should be allowable. Since claims 2, 3 and 19-25 depend from allowable claim 18, and claims 8 and 27-30 depend from allowable claim 26, those claims should also be allowable.

The statutory period for response expires on August 1, 2007. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this response, however the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 08-0219 for any required fee necessary to maintain the pendency of this application

Respectfully submitted,

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